

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



CHIYOME LEINAALA FUKINO, M.D.
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P.O. Box 3378
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96801-3378

In reply, please refer to:
File:

House Committee on Transportation

SB 3123, RELATING TO VEHICLE IGNITION INTERLOCK SYSTEMS

**Testimony of Chiyome Leinaala Fukino, M.D.
Director of Health**

February 4, 2008, 2:45 PM

1 **Department's Position:** The Department of Health strongly supports this administration interlock bill,
2 SB 3123. Ignition interlocks are an effective way of increasing the safety of all road users by
3 mechanically preventing convicted drunk drivers from operating a vehicle with alcohol in their system.

4 **Fiscal Implications:** None

5 **Purpose and Justification:** States that have enacted interlock legislation have shown a drop in
6 recidivism rates by 50 to 95 percent. Hawaii is one of only 5 states without an ignition interlock law.

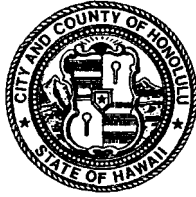
7 Alcohol related traffic fatalities remain tragically high in Hawaii; in 2006, 41 percent (58
8 drivers) of all drivers involved in traffic fatalities tested positive for alcohol. Among drivers involved in
9 fatal crashes, those who tested positive for alcohol were at least 3 times (6% vs. 2%) more likely than
10 other drivers to have had a previous conviction for DUI (Fatal Analysis Reporting System, National
11 Highway Traffic Safety Administration - NHTSA). In 2006 there were over 6,729 DUI arrests in
12 Hawaii. Based on a study conducted in 2005 by the City and County of Honolulu, over one fourth
13 (28%) of DUI arrestees have been previously arrested for a DUI. NHTSA and Center for Disease
14 Control and Prevention (CDC) conclude, when installed and in use, ignition interlocks are effective for
15 reducing alcohol related arrests and crashes.

16 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

POLICE DEPARTMENT
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

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MUFI HANNEMANN
MAYOR



BOISSE P. CORREA
CHIEF

PAUL D. PUTZULU
MICHAEL D. TUCKER
DEPUTY CHIEFS

OUR REFERENCE RL-JL

February 4, 2008

The Honorable J. Kalani English, Chair
and Members
Committee on Transportation
and International Affairs
The Senate
State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair English and Members:

Subject: Senate Bill No. 3123, Relating to Vehicle Interlock Systems

I am Major Susan Dowsett of the Traffic Division of the Honolulu Police Department (HPD), City and County of Honolulu.

The HPD opposes Senate Bill No. 3123, Relating to Vehicle Interlock Systems. This bill creates a vehicle ignition interlock system for those drivers convicted of operating a vehicle under the influence of an intoxicant (OVUII).

Although the HPD is in support of the intent of Senate Bill No. 3123, this bill is broad in content and does not address all of the issues needed to make this program a success. The more important concern is that this bill makes the installation of the ignition interlock an alternative whereas it should be mandatory.

All of the ignition interlock bills introduced in the 2008 Legislative Session are good bills; however, they do not address all of the concerns of a model ignition interlock bill. The only bill that addresses most of the concerns is Senate Bill No. 3234 and its companion House Bill No. 3377. Both bills still need work that can be completed by the interlock task force that was created in the 2007 Legislative Session. The HPD believes that it is imperative that a bill be enacted during this session. It is important that the work of the task force continue to address other issues missing so that amendments can be proposed in the 2009 session. This will ensure a model bill and the implementation of the interlock system by July 1, 2010.

We urge your committee to hold Senate Bill No. 3123 in favor of Senate Bill No. 3234 or House Bill No. 3377 to ensure a more perfect implementation of the ignition interlock system for drivers convicted of OVUII to reduce the number of deaths on our highways caused by the drinking driver.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Susan Dowsett", is written over the typed name.

SUSAN DOWSETT, Major
Traffic Division

APPROVED:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Boisse P. Correa", is written over the typed name.

for BOISSE P. CORREA
Chief of Police

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "late", is written to the right of the typed name.

Serving and Protecting With Aloha



LATE TESTIMONY

February 4, 2008

Senator J. Kalani English, Chair
Senate Committee on Transportation and International Affairs
Hawaii State Legislature

SB 3123 - Relating to Vehicle Ignition Interlock Systems

Dear Senator English:

The Beer Institute and its members deplore drunk driving and have invested significant resources to help prevent it. Brewers, importers, and suppliers have invested millions of dollars on well-known advertising campaigns and effective programs that promote responsible drinking and seek to prevent drunk driving. Our actions, along with those of federal, state, and local governments and many other public and private organizations, have helped bring about significant reductions in drunk driving. But the effort to fight drunk driving must continue.

Experts in drunk driving enforcement and adjudication tell us that interlock devices should be used as part of a broader policy designed to sanction and effectively rehabilitate drunk drivers. Interlocks are not a "one size fits all" remedy; they are only effective when used on an individualized, tailored basis. Finally, these authorities advise that there is one group that should specifically be targeted for interlock devices: repeat offenders and those who drive with very high blood alcohol content.

Based on this, we support mandatory use of ignition interlock devices for offenders with repeat DUI convictions and those individuals with a BAC of .15 or higher, even if for a first-time offense. There may also be instances where the court will determine that a first-time offender with a BAC between .08 and .14 may be a suitable candidate for an ignition interlock.

We appreciate the opportunity to share our thoughts.

Sincerely,

Jeff Becker
President